

# Building Community and Changing Philanthropy for Systemic Alternatives in COVID-19 Times and Beyond

The EDGE community includes 300 donors, foundation professionals, trustees and advisors in 19 countries within 100 diverse institutions. While our community may have differing priorities and strategies we are all passionately engaged in local, national and international grantmaking with a shared belief that equity and justice are critical to furthering sustainable global well-being. At EDGE, our mission and strategy aims to create community and change philanthropy in support of systemic alternatives. Our philanthropic and movement communities are an essential part in this process. Working closely with social movements we support the resourcing of greater equity practices while exploring and uplifting strategies that address systemic challenges and contribute to transformational change over the long term.

The COVID pandemic is a clear manifestation of a systemic breakdown that is evidenced by the many flaws and inequalities that are at the root causes of the world's growing problems (patriarchy, capitalism, anthropocentrism, etc.). We believe that this moment offers humanity a unique opportunity to organize, resource and amplify the work that social movements are doing all over the globe in developing an array of systemic alternatives that can be the starting point for the emergence of new systems.

This document aims to offer a curated collection of resources including: a list of articles and thought pieces with a deep systemic analysis of the current world crisis; a compilation of a few systemic change philanthropy reports and practices from our members and partners; a brief overview of the systemic alternatives and Just Transition frameworks; as well as some in-house resources from EDGE.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT CRISES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC CHANGE LENS

On culture and world views: [Reimagining the Post-Pandemic "Normal": Learning from Indigenous Peoples about reconciling culture and nature](#) by Dr. Gleb Raygorodetsky, Cultural Survival

On the transition movement: [What the Transition movement can teach us about how to 'bounce forward'](#) by Rob Hopkins

On mutual aid and solidarity: ['The way we get through this is together': the rise of mutual aid under coronavirus](#) by Rebecca Solnit

On climate and power: [The climate brokers: philanthropy and the shaping of a 'US-compatible' international climate regime](#) by Edouard Morena

On neoliberalism & the economy: [The neoliberal era is ending. What comes next?](#) by Rutger Bregman

On an array of issues, video interview with movement leaders: [Forward Thinking of COVID-19](#) with Laura Flanders

On politics: [The battle for a new world: The progressive response to the new right](#) by John Feffer

On narrative, reality and systemic change: [Searching for the Anti-Virus | Covid-19 as Quantum Phenomenon](#) by Martin Winiecki

On community organizing: [Permanently Organized Communities](#) by Michelle Mascarenhas-Swan

On climate and the economy: [From Emergency to Emergence](#) by David Korten

On women and economy: [5 Economists Redefining... Everything. Oh Yes, And They're Women](#) by Avivah Wittenberg-Cox

# These resources are a short collection of publications on Systemic Change and Just Transition

## JUST TRANSITION FRAMEWORKS

All of these frameworks offer slightly different perspectives on ways in which we can transition from the current extractive systems into new regenerative systems.

- [Just Transition Framework](#) - a general framework developed by Movement Generation
- [Just Transition Principles](#) - by Climate Justice Alliance
- [Feminist Just Transition Framework](#) - developed by JASS
- [Indigenous Principles of Just Transition](#) - developed by Indigenous Environmental Network
- [Just Transition for Philanthropy](#) - developed by Justice Funders

## PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR FUNDER COMMUNITY

Our philanthropic members and partners routinely share publications and reports on systemic change philanthropy. Here you can find a short summary, which unfortunately does not cover the breadth of what is available. Would you like to share something with our community? [Contact us!](#)

- [Systemic Change Impact Framework & Rationale](#) by UUSC
- [Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance](#) by Edgar Villanueva
- [Grantmaking with a Racial lens](#) by the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity
- [Resourcing Earth Defenders: The Philanthropic Response to Heightened Repression in Latin America](#) The CLIMA Fund
- [Systems to #ShiftThePower](#) - Global Fund Community Foundations

## WHAT ARE SYSTEMIC ALTERNATIVES?

- [Systemic Alternatives](#) - a website offering a comprehensive collection of resources on systemic alternatives
- [To change the system we need systemic alternatives](#) - a short animation explain the meaning of systemic change and systemic alternatives
- [What are systemic alternatives?](#) by Pablo Solon

## PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR SOCIAL MOVEMENT ALLIES

Here are some of our social movement allies' publications around their work and how it supports the emergence of new systems. Would you like to share something with our community? [Contact us!](#)

- [Propagate, Pollinate, Practice](#) Handbook with curriculum tools for a Just Transition developed by Movement Generation
- [Feminist Realities: Our Power in Action](#) An exploratory toolkit by AWID
- [World Social Forum on Transformative Economies](#) Presentation
- [Toolkit for Campaigners, activists and organizers](#) by NEON

## EDGE RESOURCES

- [EDGE Webinar Series](#) : a series of webinar on systemic approaches curated by the GEL cohorts
- [EDGE Films](#): EDGE produces social justice films as educational tools for funders on a variety of critical themes and contexts
- [EDGE Publications](#): a collection of EDGE Annual Conference Reports
- [Let's change the system, not the symptoms](#) by Arianne Shaffer and Tobias Troll

# Initiatives for COVID-19 and Beyond

## CHANGING PHILANTHROPY FOR SYSTEMIC ALTERNATIVES IN COVID-19 TIMES

- [Why Should It Take a Pandemic to Bring out the Best in Philanthropy?](#) by Farhad Ebrahimi
- [Deer eyes, circle mind: Reflections on Pandemic & Philanthropy](#) by Sonja Swift
- [Feminist Responses to Covid-19](#)
- [Gender Justice Covid-19 resources](#) - a collection of resources curated by EDGE Gender Justice Initiative members. Please feel free to add yours in as well!
- [Big money philanthropy must support Grassroots Coronavirus Relief](#) by Ana Conner
- [Philanthropy, this is our “Matrix” moment...what will you choose?](#) by Dana Kawaoka-Chen
- [Call for action: Philanthropy in times of pandemic](#) by FundAction

## BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR SYSTEMIC ALTERNATIVES IN COVID-19 AND BEYOND

- [Resourcing racial justice](#): The Resourcing Racial Justice fund is a coalition of people of colour (POC) innovators, change makers and activists, who established a new UK wide-funding pool to support individuals and communities working towards racial justice.
- [Culture of Solidarity](#): The European Cultural Foundation has launched this fund that supports imaginative cultural initiatives that, in the midst of the global pandemic crisis reinforce European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared public space
- [Global Dialogue for Systemic Change](#): Join the conversation with social movement leaders and activists from around the world who are meeting bi-weekly to organize around systemic change.
- EDGy Wednesday: EDGE offers a bi-weekly space for European members to imagine new scenarios and share alternative practices for philanthropic organisations. Contact [Tobias](#) if you are interested in joining.

## Our work

EDGE Funders Alliance organizes within philanthropy to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the interconnected nature of the social, economic and ecological crises threatening our common future.

EDGE works to increase resources for communities and movements creating systemic change alternatives for a transition to a society that supports justice, equity and the well-being of the planet.

### BUILDING COMMUNITY...

#### SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE

- EDGE Funders Annual Conference
- Annual region-based member retreats
- Working Groups

EDGE community is also very active in expanding our community by organizing panels, workshops and participating in an array of philanthropic and social movement spaces.

## Become a member

Would you like to be part of this engaged group of funders?

On our website, we shared our membership criteria and the link to apply.

**JOIN US!**



### AND CHANGING PHILANTHROPY

We believe that one of the most important roles of our network is to question the status quo and continuously deepen our systemic change analysis and practices within the field of philanthropy. We do this through initiatives such as:

- **Global Engagement Lab:** a is a six-month international learning, organizing and community-building cohort for funders
- **Gender Justice Initiative:** a collaborative group who gets together in different spaces to discuss and strategize on ways of incorporating the gender lens into the various processes within philanthropy.
- **Webinars:** online conversations curated by EDGE members, funders allies and movement partners

If you are interested in learning more about the EDGE community and our work please send us an email to [contactus@edgefunders.org](mailto:contactus@edgefunders.org)